

amendment, Claims 1-12 and 15 remain pending and await further consideration on the merits.

***REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)***

Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by EPO '806, on the grounds set forth in paragraph two of the Official Action. While Applicants do not agree with the assertion that EPO '806 discloses each and every feature required by Claims 13 and 14, these claims have been canceled by the present response in order to expedite prosecution of the present application. Therefore the above-mentioned grounds of rejection has been obviated.

***DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTIONS***

Claims 1-15 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over Claims 1-15 in copending Application Serial No. 08/929,462 on the grounds set forth in paragraph four of the Official Action. While Applicants traverse the assertion that Claims 1-15 are properly rejected on the grounds set forth in paragraph four of the Official Action, by the present response Applicants submit herewith an executed Terminal Disclaimer in order to obviate the above-mentioned grounds of rejection. Therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

***ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER***

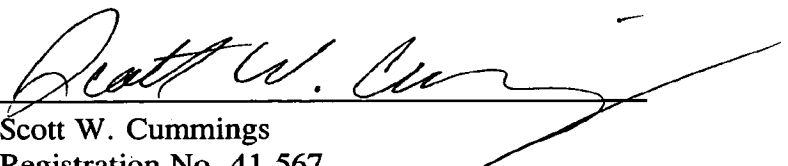
The indication of the allowability of Claims 16 and 17 in paragraph five of the Official Action is noted with appreciation.

***CONCLUSION***

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel that any issues remain, it is requested that the undersigned be contacted so that any such issues may be adequately addressed by way of Supplemental Amendment or Examiner's Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By:   
Scott W. Cummings  
Registration No. 41,567

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620

Date: May 7, 1999